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criticism. There is no display of tables. The figures are given in a cursory manner that makes them more useful because more impressive.

The book is an unpretentious one and lays no claim to scientific elaboration. It is the work of one who, if not long resident in Perú, has seen much, and made excellent use of his opportunities. Foregone conclusions, influenced by personal sympathy or antipathy, inevitably protrude here and there, but they are not offensive, except in the case of historical judgment; but, as the latter are only incidental, no grave strictures are called for.

Mr. Walle looks at the future of Perú in a favourable light, and we believe his hopes to be justified. The people have become thoroughly convinced that peaceable development alone is in the interest of the nation; that the time for violent dissensions is passed and will not so easily return, hence the call for immigration to Perú, intimated by the work before us, is timely and justified. When, as in the present instance, this call is accompanied by valuable information and reliable guidance, it becomes a worthy accession to geographical literature.

The illustrations are not of a high character and they are indifferently selected. The map is of small size, not incorrect, but it gives comparatively little detail. The bibliography at the end is scanty and limited to the most recent literature in French, with some modern Peruvian sources. One book in the English language is also mentioned.

A. F. B.

Studia Pontica. II. Voyage d'exploration archéologique dans le Pont et la Petite Arménie. Par F. et E. Cumont. Bruxelles, H. Lamentin, 1906. (Price, fr. 17.50.)

The authors present in this book a scientific account of an archæological expedition to Pontus and Lesser Armenia. To a certain extent their narrative is also of geographical value, not so much through its occasional descriptions of the landscape as by virtue of the striking picture that it gives of the character of a country in which so many different civilizations have succeeded each other. The large number of fine illustrations will especially interest the geographer as well as the archæologist.

M. K. G.

Das altsächsische Bauernhaus in seiner geographischen Verbreitung. Ein Beitrag zur deutschen Landes- und Volkskunde, von Dr. Willi Peszler. Braunschweig, Fr. Vieweg und Sohn, 1906.

In the old countries where each province has developed not only an individual dialect, an individual style of dress, and an individual type of settlement and of house-structure, the studies of such characteristics form an important branch of ethnology as well as of home geography. It is from this point of view that Dr. Peszler has taken up the detailed study of the "Old-Saxon" farmhouse and the geographical boundaries of its occurrence. This type of dwelling—mainly rural, but often also modified to meet the needs of urban surroundings—is the characteristic house of the lowland of Northwestern Germany, the country of the old Saxons from whom it derives its name. It is a very large building which unites under its roof the living rooms, barns, and stables, in opposition to the "Franconian" house of upper Germany, where dwelling-house, barn, and stable are separate buildings enclosing a central yard. The most prominent part of the Old-Saxon house is the high and wide *dele* (Diele) or hall, which runs lengthwise through the whole structure on the ground floor. Right and left of it are the partitions for the animals, hay, and grain, and along the back wall, transversely

to the *dele*, the chambers of the family and servants. The front part of the *dele*, next to the large entrance gate which occupies the whole width of the *dele*, and, consequently, of the front wall, is the scene of all the farm occupations that are not performed outdoors. Through the gateway the harvest wagons enter to be unloaded, the corn is thrashed here, etc. The back part of the *dele*, the "*flett*," is distinguished from the front part by a mosaic floor of small pebbles or stones, and figures as the general meeting and sitting room for the whole household. Here, in the centre of the back wall, is the large genial fireplace around which the family gathers, and from her seat by the fire the mistress of the house can watch the maids working in every part of the house. To this social function of the *dele* the architectural one corresponds. The distinctive structural feature of the Old-Saxon house is the comparative insignificance of the outside walls. The *dele* is the centre, structurally, too. The main supports of the whole house are not the walls, but the two rows of heavy oaken posts which hold the two parallel longitudinal walls of the *dele*. Each two of them are connected by transverse beams, and on them the rafters, and the whole roof, rest. The construction thus resembles that of a three-aisled church, more especially a basilica, and the side aisles could be removed walls, roof, and all, without injuring the safety of the main structure. To any one conversant with Mucke's "long-house" theory these descriptions of the author will be most interesting. The author does not, however, digress into the prehistoric problems of his subject; his purpose is to determine the geographic distribution of this interesting type of dwelling and to ascertain its boundaries before fire and modern building regulations shall have rendered this task impossible. He has personally explored, on foot, on wheel, and by train, almost every village and hamlet of Northern Germany, so that it is hard to imagine one specimen that should have escaped his notice. The result of his wanderings, of which the maps accompanying the book give us an approximate idea, is that the boundaries of this typical Low-German house are not identical with those of the Low-German dialects, nor with any special type of settlement. The book is one of the most valuable contributions to the home geography of Germany, for its contents as well as for the avenues of further research along similar lines which it opens; and with its 171 illustrations and 6 plates, all of them most beautifully executed, will be a treat for the lover of the picturesque of any nationality.

M. K. G.

Beiträge zur Geophysik. viii Band, 1. Heft. Leipzig, George Engelmann, 1906.

This issue of the *Beiträge* contains seven papers, three of which deal with seismic problems. The first is an article by Charles Davison, Sc.D., F.G.S., on "*The relative velocity of earthquake waves and earthquake-sound waves.*" The author questions the theory generally accepted by seismologists that, because the sound of an earthquake is often heard before the shock is felt, sound waves travel with greater velocity than earthquake waves. According to that theory, the percentage of observers who heard the sound before the shock came ought to increase, and the percentage of those who heard it with or after the shock ought to decrease, with the increasing distance from the earthquake centre. His observations of English earthquakes, however, showed that both classes of observers decreased in proportion to the increasing distance. He concludes, therefore, that the early sound waves take their origin, not at the centre, but at the nearer margin of the seismic focus, so that their velocity need differ but little, if at all, from that of the earthquake waves.